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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A cover for use with an endoscope, comprising:
 a body having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to an insertion
 portion of the endoscope.
2. The cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the recessed portion presents a
10 tapered profile with respect to a longitudinal axis thereof.
3. The cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the body comprises an open cell
 foam.
- 15 4. The cover as recited in claim 1, wherein the body further comprises a
 channel coupled to the recessed portion such that the channel and recessed portion extend
 through the body.
5. The cover as recited in claim 1, further comprising an indicium indicative of
20 a condition of the endoscope.
6. The cover as recited in claim 1, further comprising a disinfecting compound
 disposed thereon.
- 25 7. The cover as recited in claim 6, wherein the disinfecting compound is
 integral to the body.

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8. A cover for use with an endoscope, comprising:

a body having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to a probe portion of the endoscope, wherein the body includes an indicium configured to indicate a condition of the endoscope.

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9. The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the condition comprises a contamination condition.

10. The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the indicium comprises a predetermined color.

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11. The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the indicium comprises a predetermined contour of the body.

12. The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the condition comprises an operational condition.

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13. The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the indicium comprises information indicative of the manufacturer of the endoscope.

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14. The cover as recited in claim 8, wherein the indicium includes a raised surface with respect to an external surface of the body.

15. An endoscope system comprising:

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an endoscope comprising:

a light source configured to produce a light beam; and

a flexible conduit having a probe end and configured to receive the light beam from the light source, wherein the flexible conduit is configured to direct the light beam

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outwardly with respect to the probe end; and

first and second cover members each having a recessed portion configured to releasably secure to the probe end, wherein the first cover member comprises a first indicium indicative of a first endoscope condition and the second cover member comprises
5 a second indicium indicative of a second endoscope condition.

16. The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second indicia respectively comprise first and second predetermined colors representative of a sterile endoscope condition and a contaminated endoscope condition.

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17. The endoscope system as recited in claim 16, wherein the first color comprises a green and the second color comprises a red.

18. The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second
15 indicia respectively comprise first and second cover member contours representative of a sterile endoscope condition and a contaminated endoscope condition.

19. The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second cover members comprise an impact absorbing material.

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20. The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second cover members comprise an open cell foam.

21. The endoscope system as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second
25 cover members comprise a plastic material.

22. A method of covering a probe portion of an endoscope, comprising:
securing a first cover member having a first indicium indicative of a first endoscope

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condition to the probe portion;

removing the first cover member from the probe portion; and

securing a second cover member having a second indicium indicative of a second endoscope condition to the probe portion.

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23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first and second indicia respectively comprise first and second predetermined colors.

24. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first and second indicia
10 respectively comprise predetermined first and second contours.

25. The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising sterilizing the probe portion prior to securing the second cover.

15 26. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first endoscope condition comprises a sterilized condition and the second endoscope condition comprises a contaminated condition.

20 27. An endoscope system, comprising:
an endoscope including a flexible conduit having a probe portion;
a first means for covering the probe portion, thereby indicating a first status of the endoscope; and
a second means for covering the probe portion thereby indicating a second status of the endoscope.

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28. The endoscope system as recited in claim 27, wherein the first endoscope status is a sterilized status and the second endoscope status is a contaminated status.

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29. The endoscope system as recited in claim 27, wherein the first and second means respectively comprise first and second predetermined colors.

5 30. The endoscope system as recited in claim 27, wherein the first and second means are detectable by touch.

31. A method of manufacturing a cover for a probe portion of an endoscope, comprising:
shaping a flexible synthetic material to form a cover configured to releasably secure
10 to the probe portion; and
integrating with respect to the cover an indicium indicative of a status of the endoscope.

15 32. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the indicium comprises a predetermined color.

33. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the indicium is configured to be detectable by touch.

20 34. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the flexible synthetic material comprises a plastic.

25 35. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the flexible synthetic material comprises foam.

36. An endoscope cover system including an endoscope having an insertion portion, comprising:
a first cover having a first indicia indicative of a used state and a need for

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sterilization, the cover being configured to receive the insertion portion; and

a second cover having a second indicia indicative of a sterilized state, the second cover being configured to receive the insertion portion.

5 37. The endoscope cover system as recited in claim 36, wherein the first and second covers comprise an open cell foam.

 38. The endoscope cover system as recited in claim 36, wherein the first and second indicia include colors.

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 39. The endoscope cover system as recited in claim 36, wherein the first and second indicia include contours.

 40. The endoscope cover system as recited in claim 36, wherein at least one of
15 the first and second covers is disposable.